

Salmon City Hall & Library
200 Main Street
Salmon
Lemhi County
Idaho

HABS No.

ID - 98

HABS

ID,

30-SAL.

1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service, Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94102

HABS
ID,
30-SAL,
1-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

Salmon City Hall and Library HABS NO. ID-98

Location: 200 Main Street
Salmon
Lemhi County (059)
Idaho
USGS, Salmon Quadrangle (15 Min.)
UTM; 12/2, 72, 750/50, 06, 325

Present Owner: City of Salmon
200 Main Street
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Present Occupant: The City of Salmon

Present Use: City Hall

Significance: The Salmon City Hall and Library building has exceptional architectural significance as an example of the art deco style.

The influence of the architectural firm of Tourtellotte and Hummel, would have been unlikely to reach this out-of-the-way location but for the centralization of design opportunities afforded by the federal programs (WPA) of the 1930's.

The native sandstone was quarried and the building constructed with WPA labor. Frank Hummel is cited as the senior architect for the project.

This building was placed on the National Register of Historical Places on 11/17/82 as part of a thematic nomination of Tourtellotte and Hummel Architecture in Idaho.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: The Salmon City Hall and Library was constructed in 1939 as a WPA project.
2. Architect: Tourtellotte and Hummel Architects of Gooding, Idaho were the project Architects with Frank Hummel serving as senior architect.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The City of Salmon has been the only owner of this building since it was constructed in 1939.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Virgil Harris
5. Original plans and construction: The grandson of Frank Hummel, Charles Hummel of Caldwell, Idaho, has the original plans for the Salmon City Hall and Library building.
6. Alterations and additions: The Library was moved to a building in 1980 and the City Council chambers were installed in the west half of the building which had been occupied by the Library. The double-door access to that part of the building was removed and a window installed in place of the doors. The windows have been altered to accommodate placement of air conditioner units for each room in the building. The planter area in the middle of the building was replaced with a concrete planter box around a flag pole. The concrete planter and flag pole were removed and the double door access was restored in 1987. Thus the building now is very similar to its original 1939 design.

B. Historical Context

The Salmon City Hall and Library is a one-story stone and concrete structure with basement which stands on Main Street at the northwest end of the commercial row in Salmon, Idaho. It was built under the auspices of the **Works Progress Administration** and is dated 1939 both by on-site plaque and by blueprint. Its architect was Frank Hummel of the firm of Tourtellotte and Hummel.

The Salmon City Hall and Library building has exceptional architectural significance as the best example of the art deco style, institutional or otherwise, in this small east-central Idaho town; and as perhaps the most elegant institutional application of that style by the firm, executed as it is with solid masonry walls of fine native sandstone. The building seems to have had the advantage of local skill with the local stone, giving this building a much more elegant aspect than is possessed by most of the federally (WPA) assisted building projects carried out by the firm.

Salmon, in the mountains near the Montana border, is another out-of-the-way location which Tourtellotte and Hummel architects' influence would have been unlikely to reach but for the centralization of design opportunities afforded by the federal programs (WPA) of the 1930's. The stone was quarried and the building constructed with WPA labor. Frank Hummel is cited as the senior architect for the project.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

The building is basically rectangular in plan but is actually composed of two distinct sections, each with an entrance three feet up from the sidewalk. The section to the west contained the public library and had transomed double doors flanked by single plate glass windows. The east section was indented several feet with entry at the middle of the building in the west corner of this section, through a single transomed door into a vestibule, city clerk's offices, and city council chambers. At the east corner is an entrance to the basement jail. Between the doors, in this section of the building, is a pair of plate glass windows.

Above entry level, the building is constructed of twelve-inch-thick blocks of native sandstone, of varying widths. The stone has been very smoothly dressed, but some evidence of the cutting process remains on the surface. Stone was also used for lintels, the slightly outset sills of the windows, and the coping at the roof line. Concrete was used for the steps and landings and concrete blocks support the entire nine-foot high basement level, which also houses a heating plant and fuel room.

B. Description of Exterior

1. **Overall Dimensions:** Fifty (50) feet by fifty-two (52) feet by fifty (50) feet by fifty-two (52) feet. There are six bays across the front. The bays consist of three windows and three doors. The building has a basement that is exposed on all sides except the front.
2. **Foundations:** Concrete and concrete block.
3. **Walls:** Twelve inch thick blocks of native sandstone of varying widths bonded with concrete. The stone is laid in courses, the color is white with shades of tan.
4. **Structural system, framing:** Wall type, load bearing; floor system is concrete and roof framing is wood.
5. **Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads:** Stoops are concrete, located at the front (three) and rear (one) of the building.

6. Chimneys: None
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are four door ways. The three doorways at the front of the building contain two double doors and two single doors.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Plate Glass.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The roof is flat and covered with a rubber membrane material.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: - Coping at roof line is stone.
 - c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: One Keystone is located on the front of the building.

C. Description of Interior (See enclosed drawing)

1. Floor plans:
 - a. Basement: See drawing
 - b. First floor: See drawing
 - c. Second floor: None
2. Stairways: See drawing
3. Flooring: Concrete covered with tiles and carpet.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Stucco
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: see drawing
 - b. Windows: See drawing
6. Decorative features and trim: None
7. Hardware: 1939 design on exterior doors.
8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Electric heating/forced air.
 - b. Lighting: Florescent
 - c. Plumbing: Cast iron

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Located at the North West end of Main Street near the Salmon River.
2. Historic landscape design: None
3. Outbuildings: None

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Original Architectural Drawings: Frank Hummel; Gooding, Idaho.
- B. Early Views: State of Idaho Historical Society
- C. Interviews: None
- D. Bibliography
 - 1. Primary and unpublished sources - None
 - 2. Secondary and published sources - Published sources, (Salmon) Idaho Recorder Herald, November 16, 1938; December 7, 1938; February 15, 1939 and March 29, 1939.
- E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Frank Hummel Gooding, Idaho. (son of architect, Frank Hummel)
- F. Supplemental Material - None

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The front or street view of the Salmon City Hall and Library building has been returned to its original 1939 setting. Returning the building to its original setting involved removal of a concrete planter and flag pole.

Recording was undertaken as a result of a Memorandum of Agreement among the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer, Economic Development Administration & Advisors Council on Historic Preservation. A federally funded project will result in new construction obscuring the side and rear of the City Hall building.

50 Feet

Council Chambers

52 Feet

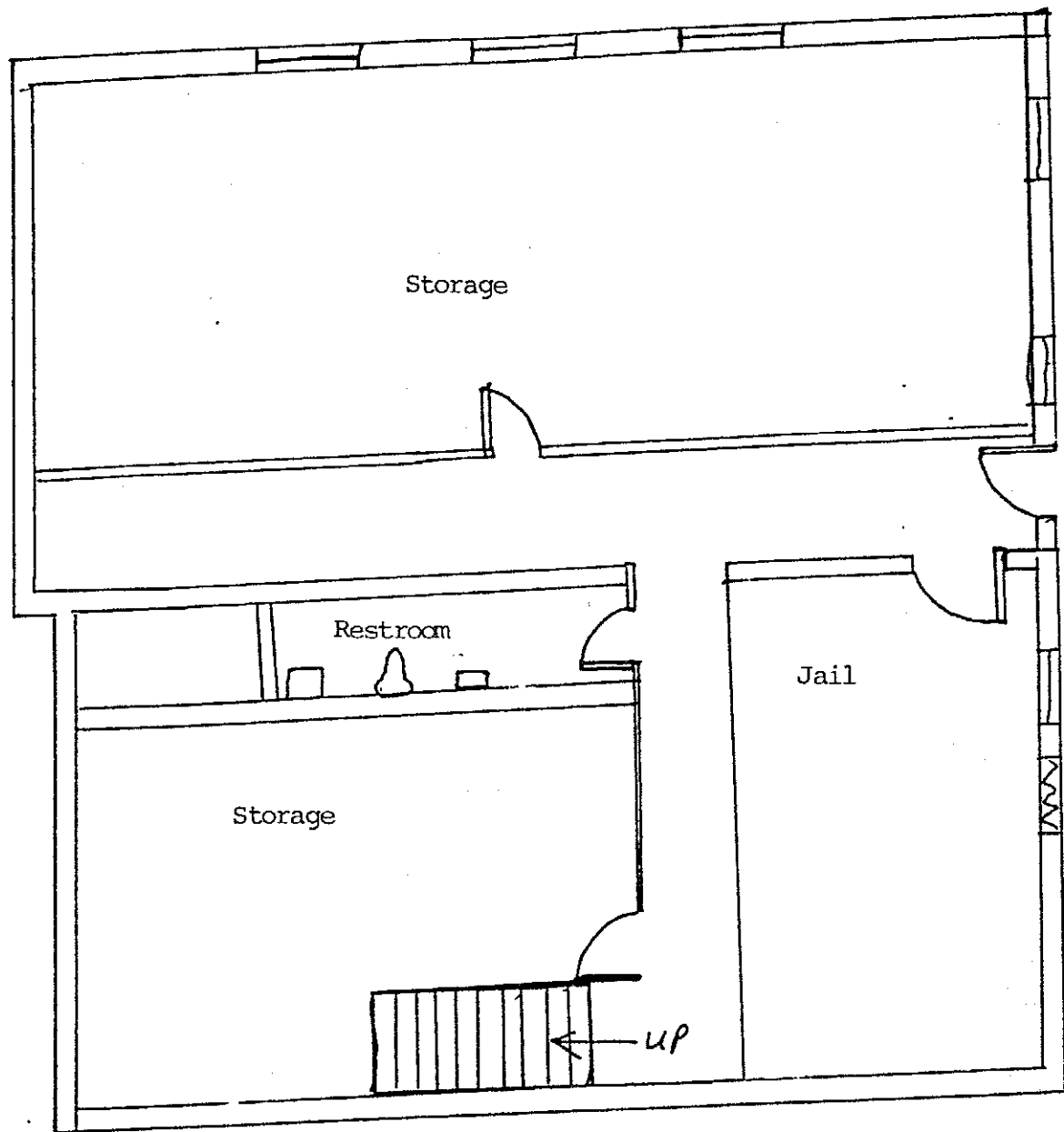
Hall

Clerks Office

Managers Office

DN
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EXIST. CITY HALL
MAIN FLOOR



CITY HALL
BASEMENT

